

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter the following amendments:

1. (Currently amended) A method for transferring information between multiple buyers and multiple vendors, comprising:

receiving information corresponding to a plurality of products from a ~~plurality of sources~~ said multiple vendors, said information characterizing said plurality of products and being of a static nature;

storing the information in a first database;

receiving a request for a portion of the information stored in the first database;

retrieving the portion of the information corresponding to the request from the first database;

~~posting~~ using the retrieved portion of the information to maintain a dynamic record of product totals on a second database, ~~the information corresponding to the request;~~ and

providing selective access to subsets of the second database to said multiple buyers and said multiple vendors according to predetermined permissions ~~of the second database to a plurality of subscribers.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising providing access between at least one of the ~~plurality of subscribers~~ multiple buyers and at least one of the ~~plurality of sources~~ multiple vendors.

3. (Currently amended) An inventory management system, comprising:
a central node;
a plurality of vendors electronically coupled to ~~the~~ said central node;
a plurality of buyers electronically coupled to ~~the~~ said central node; and
a first database and a second ~~databases~~ database electronically coupled to the said central node;

wherein said first database includes product information from said vendors related to product characteristics and being of a static nature and said second database includes inventory information related to dynamic product totals;

wherein ~~when~~ a request from one of said plurality of vendors and the said plurality of buyers is received as ~~at the said central node which said system~~ obtains information stored on the said first database from at least one of the said plurality of vendors and ~~in response to said request uses displays the~~ a subset of said information ~~on the~~ in combination with said inventory information from said second database for selective access by and display to said one of said plurality of vendors and said plurality of buyers according to predetermined permissions.

4. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first database is a product information database.

5. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein access to the posted information is granted only to one or more of the multiple buyers.

6. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein access to the subset of the second database is granted only to one or more of the multiple vendors.

7. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein access to the subset of the second database is granted only to one of the multiple buyers and one of the multiple vendors.

8. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the subset of the second database is related to inventory of one or more of the multiple buyers and access is provided to one or more of the multiple vendors.

9. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein the subset of the second database is related to inventory of one or more of the multiple vendors and access is provided to one or more of the multiple buyers.

10. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein said receiving information step is preceded by acquiring the information by way of a plurality of data capture devices that are in communication with the first database.

11. (New) The method of Claim 10 wherein the plurality of data capture devices are located at the multiple vendors.

12. (New) The method of Claim 10 wherein one or more of the plurality of data capture devices are located at each of the multiple buyers.

13. (New) The method of Claim 10 wherein the plurality of data capture devices are located at the multiple vendors and the multiple buyers.

14. (New) The method of Claim 1 further comprising setting one or more individual product re-supply thresholds for each of the multiple buyers.

15. (New) The method of Claim 14 further comprising triggering a re-supply and billing event when one or more of the individual product re-supply thresholds are met.

16. (New) The inventory management system of Claim 3 wherein said plurality of vendors each include at least one data capture device being in communication with said central node and capable of obtaining vendor information related to vendor product, said product information being conveyable to and storable in said first database.

17. (New) The inventory management system of Claim 16 wherein said plurality of buyers each include at least one data capture device being in communication with said central node and capable of obtaining at least said product inventory information from said plurality of buyers, said product inventory information being conveyable to and storable in said first database.

18. (New) The inventory management system of Claim 17 wherein said plurality of vendors may be granted access to a first subset of said information related to said product inventory information by way of said second database.

19. (New) The inventory management system of Claim 18 wherein said plurality of buyers may be granted access to a second subset of said vendor information related to said vendor by way of said second database.

20. (New) The inventory management system of Claim 18 wherein a first of said plurality of buyers may be granted access to a third subset of information related to a product inventory of a second of said plurality of buyers.
